

Energy

Remember how energy prices went nuts this year? Some people said conservation wouldn't solve the problem, that conservation is "a personal virtue."

Well, you proved them wrong. Prices didn't rise as much (price per kilowatt is going up still) because folks in Washington and other Western states conserved and reduced demand.

Power use is down 5 percent at the Snohomish Public Utility District after a huge conservation effort. Citizens bought an estimated 100,000 of those new high-tech light bulbs, turned off lights when they left the room and bought energy efficient appliances.

In my own house, we cut back our electricity bill by almost a third by using the clothesline instead of the dryer and changing our light bulbs to fluorescent. It isn't over yet, but people are making a difference.

A success: Skykomish River

There's a better way to protect our jobs and the environment. The old way is battling in court, Congress and the Legislature.

The new way is working together to get things done. We have an example right here in the Skykomish Valley.

A few years ago, a farmer named Dale Riener and local fishing groups restored Haskell Slough and created prime habitat for salmon. Dale and a group of other farmers approach me and other legislators to continue this idea and to do a Habitat Conservation Plan to restore some more habitat and to give the farmers security.

This session, I worked with, and want to compliment, Rep. Kirk Pearson to secure money for planning and a method to keep the main river from wiping out the recently finished Haskell Slough project.

I hope others see what happened in the Skykomish Valley and follow this example of working together.



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Representative
Hans Dunshee
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



Town Hall meetings
November 17th, 2001

Arlington	9-11 a.m.	Arlington Boys' & Girls' Club, 18513 59th Ave. NE
Snohomish	noon-2pm	Snohomish PUD bldg., 807 Rainer
Monroe	3-5 p.m.	Monroe Fire Station 163 Village Way



Representative
Hans Dunshee
39th District

2001 Session Report

Dear neighbors,


With our nation at war with terrorism, it's hard to think of anything else. Our state is home to major Army, Navy and Air Force bases. Our men and women in uniform now face adversity and death in defense of freedom.

People keep asking me what they can do -- aside from giving blood, donating to the Red Cross and flying the American flag. As President Bush says, this fight against terrorism will take time, and sacrifices on our parts. We cannot simply return to our lives as they were. History tells us that when this nation puts its mind to a task, we can accomplish great things together. Forty percent of the steel and other material the U.S. used to fight World War II came from citizens who recycled household goods. This will be a different kind of war, so I don't know exactly what each of us will be called to do. But we must be ready.

While our nation battles terrorism, we still have problems to tackle, such as traffic gridlock. Inside this newsletter, I'll tell you about what happened in Olympia and some ideas to clean up politics and solve our common problems.

I'm happy to announce my office and legislative aide, Erin Dziedzic, are back home in Snohomish while the Legislature is out of session. It's a pleasure talking to real people instead of getting chased by lobbyists all day. If you're in Snohomish, drop by the district office (next to the ice cream store).

I hope to hear from you soon, or see you at one of the town hall meetings I'll host on Oct. 27.

Sincerely,

Hans Dunshee

902 1/2 First Ave. #D
Snohomish, WA 98290
dunshee_ha@leg.wa.gov
Hotline: 800-562-6000
District office: 425-339-1996
www.leg.wa.gov/house/members/d39_1.htm

Committees:
Local Govt. & Housing, Co-Chair
Agriculture & Ecology
Appropriations

Big frustrations & small victories

I've never been more frustrated with the lack of progress in the House of Representatives and Senate. I agree with citizens who've told me they want solutions to real problems instead of more political gridlock and hot air. We need to work together to:

- fix traffic gridlock;
- improve our schools; and
- clean up politics;
- protect the environment.

I believe our duty is to build communities, create opportunity and act responsibly to make our state a better place for our children. Here's an update about those and other issues.

Frustration #1: Traffic gridlock

Gov. Gary Locke had a plan, the Senate Democrats and Republicans worked together and House Democrats put a proposal on the table. To view the governor's plan visit: www.governor.wa.gov/budpol/partnership.htm

But political games stopped any transportation deal. House Republicans never offered a plan. Now, I wasn't thrilled with some of the transportation plans because of the tax increases, and a lack of focus on solving gridlock in our county. But at least the proposals gave us a starting point. We could negotiate something better. Bottom line, something's got to be done about traffic gridlock. We can't wait for politicians in central Washington — where there's never a rush hour — to get off the dime and help solve traffic gridlock in Snohomish, King and Pierce counties. We've got to finish work on State Route 522, extend 132th St. to State Route 9, build carpool and bus lanes all the way to Everett and make State Route 2 less of a death trap. We need that Smoky Point overpass expansion and countless other projects. But before gridlock gets solved here at home, we've got to bust the political logjam in Olympia. It's irresponsible to leave big problems like traffic for our children to solve. No more delays. It's time to act on transportation.

Frustration #2: Big money & dirty tricks

Money and elections continue to be a bad mix for our country. Last election, candidates broke the record for spending. Wealthy special interests wrote the checks — and who believes them when they say all that money buys is "access" to lawmakers? My frustration continues but I will continue to fight to put people over money. I understand Sen. John McCain's of Arizona frustration with how politics has turned into an endless race for money. That's why I've introduced legislation similar to Sen. McCain's bill. I will not give up until we've passed reforms to clean up politics. Four states passed reforms to get money out of politics and it's working. Proportional representation and the instant runoff elections are used around the world. These ideas are worth studying for our state. Here's some links to sites about cleaning up politics:

www.publiccampaign.org www.pbs.org/followthemoney
www.commoncause.org www.publiccampaign.org/ouch.html

Victory: the fight against sprawl

There was an effort to roll back environmental protections and to let developers have more power over our communities. I stopped these efforts. I was not successful in making new growth responsible for its expenses, but I got closer to success. Sprawl costs you big bucks as a taxpayer, and it's a cancer eating away at our unique towns and neighborhoods. We've got to win this fight to protect the soul of our communities.

Victory: the budget

The biggest question in politics is, Where should the state invest and spend? Every major decision lives or dies by the state budget, so it's always a big political battle. I'm happy to say that this year, there was a lot of sound and fury about the budget — but the real fight was about two tenths of one percent. Two pennies on the dollar — that's the difference in spending between the budget proposed by Republicans and the one that passed. The budget includes better care for kids in foster homes. It also makes reforms to save money and do more with less. If legislators have to do anything, it's keeping the state running. Schools, nursing homes, prisons and offices must stay open to work for the citizens. The budget was responsible and the right thing to do.

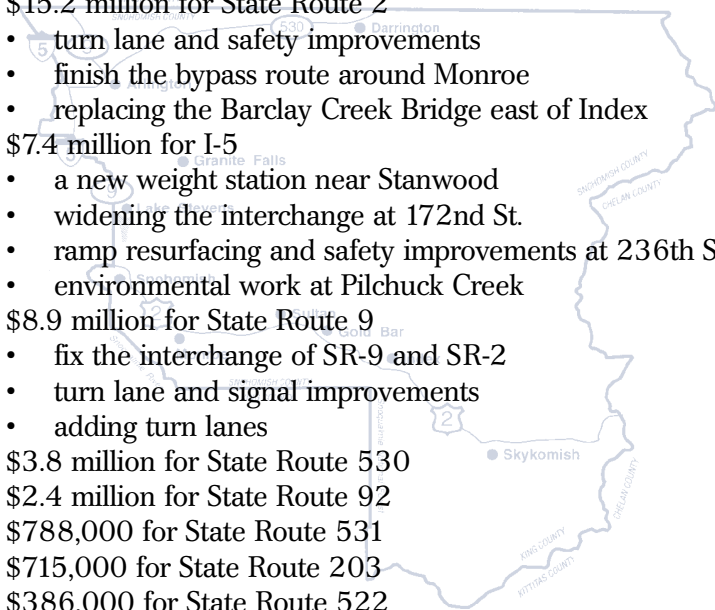
Local projects

- \$20.7 million to add 100 beds to the Monroe prison
- \$3 million to add a training center to the Monroe prison
- \$750,000 to clean up state forest lands and keep the gates open
- \$618,000 for the Skykomish flood prevention project
- \$34,000 for the Osprey Park basketball court



Local transportation projects

- \$15.2 million for State Route 2
 - turn lane and safety improvements
 - finish the bypass route around Monroe
 - replacing the Barclay Creek Bridge east of Index
- \$7.4 million for I-5
 - a new weight station near Stanwood
 - widening the interchange at 172nd St.
 - ramp resurfacing and safety improvements at 236th St. NE
 - environmental work at Pilchuck Creek
- \$8.9 million for State Route 9
 - fix the interchange of SR-9 and SR-2
 - turn lane and signal improvements
 - adding turn lanes
- \$3.8 million for State Route 530
- \$2.4 million for State Route 92
- \$788,000 for State Route 531
- \$715,000 for State Route 203
- \$386,000 for State Route 522



Schools

Last fall, voters passed two initiatives to reduce class sizes and attract good teachers. I was amazed to learn some politicians wanted to override those initiatives because of cost. In the end, we pushed through a budget that funded those initiatives. It's a real victory for education.



Local school districts get help

- (estimated money from Initiative 128)*
- Marysville — \$2.17 million
 - Snohomish — \$1.61 million
 - Lake Stevens — \$1.2 million
 - Monroe — \$1.07 million
 - Arlington — \$917,608
 - Granite Falls — \$409,749
 - Sultan — \$404,749
 - Darrington — \$112,902